GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:386
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2016
IT Infrastructure for Gram Panchayats
Dhruvanarayana Shri Rangaswamy;Jadhav Shri Sanjay Haribhau

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of Electronics & Information Technology be pleased to state: -
(a) the action taken by the Government to speed up the digital penetration and accessibility especially in remote areas/villages;

(b) whether the Government proposes to augment information technology infrastructure for digital connection of gram panchayats and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Government plans to collaborate with the private sector for augmenting the digital connectivity in the rural areas and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED
QUESTION NO.*386 FOR 14.12.2016 REGARDING
IT INFRASTRUCTURE FOR GRAM PANCHAYATS
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(a) and (b): The main actions taken by the Government to speed up the digital penetration and accessibility especially in remote areas/villages, and augmenting information technology infrastructure for digital connection of Gram Panchayats (GPs) are as follows:

(i) BharatNet: The Department of Telecom under Ministry of Communication is implementing the BharatNet project for creating network infrastructure to provide a broadband connectivity to all GPs (approx. 2,50,000) in the country. Under the said project, pipeline has been laid in 76,728 GPs, 1.48 lakhs KMs of optical fibre pulled for 64,955 GPs and 15,134 GPs have been connected.

(ii) Common Services Centre (CSC): The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India is establishing CSCs in order to deliver eServices, especially in remote areas/villages. For this, the Ministry has approved a programme in August 2015 with outlay of ` 475.11 Cr. for enhancing the number of CSCs to 2.5 lakhs (one CSC in every GP) by August 2019. The current number of registered CSCs is 2,56,493; out of this, 1.75 lakhs CSCs are active and transacting for delivery of eServices; out of this, 1.22 lakhs are at GP level.

(iii) The Department of Telecom, Ministry of Communications released additional spectrum over 2300 MHz band in 2016 and made it available through an auction process to Telecom Service Providers to enable them to provide greater digital connectivity across the country including rural areas.

(c): Under the BharatNet Project, the Government has modified its strategy to implement the project in three phases in collaboration with three Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) and State Governments.

In order to facilitate the delivery of eServices, particularly in rural areas, M/s CSC e-Governance Services India Limited was set up as a Special Purpose Vehicle (CSC -SPV) under MeitY. CSC −SPV is collaborating with Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs), Private, Public and other eService providers at National level and State/Union Territory (UT) level for seamless delivery of citizen centric services across the country.

The Telecom connectivity is provided in collaboration with Telecom Service Providers which includes private players and Government Public Sector undertakings.

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